

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

The Nobel War Lecture

by David Krieger

In accepting the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, President Obama, one of the world's great orators and purveyors of hope, gave a speech that must reflect the divisions within himself and his personal struggles to reconcile them. Rather than a speech of vision and hope, it was a speech that sought to justify war and particularly America's wars. The speech was largely an infomercial for war, touting not only its necessity but its virtues, and might well be thought of as the "Nobel War Lecture."

Where was the vision that was so hopeful in Barack Obama the campaigner for the presidency? Has a year in office reduced him to a "reality" from which he cannot raise his sights to envision a more peaceful future - one without war or Predator drone attacks, one in which international cooperation in intelligence gathering and law enforcement could bring terrorists to justice?

To read more, [click here](#).

Opportunity Lost: Obama in Oslo

by Daniel C. Maguire

Whether Obama deserved the Nobel Peace Prize is not the point. The fact is he got it, and was gifted with the chance of a lifetime to make a classic speech on the politics of peace-making, a speech that in the glare of Nobel could have attained instant biblical standing.

He hoisted his petard on the classical "just war theory," a theory that, properly understood, condemns his decision to send yet more kill-power into Afghanistan.

To read more, [click here](#).

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

Obama's Vision Drawing Fire

Officials in the Pentagon and other agencies have been putting up strong resistance to President Obama's vision of a world free of nuclear weapons. The conflict is primarily over the President's desire to shrink the US nuclear arsenal and reduce the role of nuclear weapons in US military policy.

The White House has reportedly rejected an initial draft of the Nuclear Posture Review, which will set the United States' nuclear policy for years to come, because of its failure to reflect President Obama's vision.

According to a senior US defense official, "We are not looking at whether to reduce the roles of nuclear weapons and whether to reduce [their numbers]. We're looking at how."

Richter, Paul, "[Obama's Nuclear-Free Vision Mired in Debate](#)," *Los Angeles Times*, January 4, 2010.

Nuclear Disarmament

Eliminating Nuclear Threats

The International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND), a joint initiative of the Australian

and Japanese governments, has released a report entitled *Eliminating Nuclear Threats: A Practical Agenda for Global Policymakers*.

The report outlines both opportunities and obstacles to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons and makes short-, medium-, and long-term action agendas. The Commission calls for a “no first-use” policy, a reduction in alert status, and a reduction to 2,000 nuclear weapons by the year 2025. While we appreciate these as medium-term actions, we do not believe they express the sense of urgency that the threat of nuclear weapons use makes necessary.

Numerous prominent politicians and groups, including the European Parliament and the group Mayors for Peace, have seen the urgency of complete nuclear disarmament and have called for a world free of nuclear weapons by the year 2020.

To read the full ICNND report, [click here](#).

Nuclear Proliferation

Iranian Nuclear Document Was Likely Forged

A document published recently by the *Times of London*, which purportedly describes an Iranian plan to conduct experiments with a “neutron initiator” for atomic weapons, has been revealed as a forgery.

The story led to a new round of expressions of US and European support for tough sanctions against Iran and renewed talk of a unilateral military strike by Israel against Iran.

Porter, Gareth, “[US Intelligence Found Iran Nuke Document Was Forged](#),” *Truthout*, December 28, 2009.

Nuclear Insanity

Israeli Police Arrest Whistleblower Again

Mordechai Vanunu, an Israeli who spent 18 years - 11 of them in solitary confinement - for blowing the whistle on Israel’s nuclear arsenal in the mid-1980s, has been arrested again by police in Jerusalem.

According to Vanunu’s lawyer, he was arrested while meeting with his Norwegian girlfriend at an East Jerusalem hotel. Under strict rules imposed by the Israeli government, Vanunu is forbidden from speaking to any foreign nationals.

Daniel Ellsberg, a Distinguished Fellow at the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, said of Vanunu’s most recent arrest: “Such restrictions [on Vanunu’s freedom of movement, associations and speech] have no place in a nation evincing respect for a rule of law and fundamental human rights. His arrest and confinement are outrages and should be ended immediately.”

Although Israel has never officially acknowledged its nuclear arsenal, from the materials divulged by Vanunu in the 1980s, it is estimated that Israel possesses approximately 200 nuclear warheads.

Hider, James, “[Israeli Whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu Arrested for Tryst with Foreign Girlfriend](#),” *The Times*, December 30, 2009.

Republican Letter on Modernization

All 40 Republican senators plus independent senator Joe Lieberman have written to President Obama threatening to reject ratification of a replacement for the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty unless the US implements a program to upgrade its

nuclear weapons systems.

In the letter, the senators said, “We don’t believe further reductions can be in the national security interest of the US in the absence of a significant program to modernize our nuclear deterrent.”

The senators are specifically calling for full life-extension upgrades to the B61 and W76 warheads; funding for a new “modern” nuclear warhead; full funding for nuclear stockpile surveillance; and full funding for replacements of the Los Alamos plutonium plant, the Oak Ridge uranium plant and a modern plutonium pit facility.

Gertz, Bill, “[Nuke Modernization](#),” *Washington Times*, December 17, 2009.

Missile Defense

US Missile Defense Stalling Arms Reductions

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has said that US missile defense plans were the main obstacle to reaching a new deal on a replacement for the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which expired on December 5.

Reflecting the extent to which Russia feels threatened by US missile defense plans, Putin said, “In order to preserve balance...we need to develop offensive weapons systems.” Putin’s statement echoed an earlier pledge by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to develop a new generation of strategic nuclear weapons.

Bryanski, Gleb, “[US Missile Shield Holding Up Nuclear Deal: Putin](#),” *Reuters*, December 29, 2009.

Nuclear Energy and Waste

Canada Asks Towns to Store Nuclear Waste

Canada’s Nuclear Waste Management Organization is seeking Canadian towns to host 40,000 metric tons of nuclear waste produced by the country’s 22 nuclear reactors.

The Canadian plan aims to avoid local resistance to the nuclear waste dump by requiring communities to ask to be considered as hosts for an underground repository. After public endorsement through a referendum, the community would become a candidate for extensive technical review.

Woodard, Colin, “[Nuclear Waste: Canada Asks Its Towns if They’ll Give It a Home](#),” *Christian Science Monitor*, December 10, 2009.

Military-Industrial Complex

Russian Missile Causes Light Show in Norway

The failure of a new Russian intercontinental ballistic missile during testing was the cause of spectacular spiraling blue lights in the skies over northern Norway. Photographs and amateur video footage of the bluish-white in the Norwegian skies have been circulating on the Internet since Wednesday and spawning speculation of UFOs.

The botched launch was the twelfth test of the Bulava missile and its eighth failure, dealing a blow to Kremlin’s hopes that the sea-based weapon would become a cornerstone of its nuclear arsenal.

Isachenkov, Vladimir, "[New Russian Missile May Be Behind Norwegian Lights](#)," *Associated Press*, December 10, 2009.

Obama Eyes Arms Sales to Taiwan

The Obama administration is moving toward possible new arms sales to Taiwan, including diesel-electric submarines, Black Hawk helicopters and PAC-3 missiles.

China strongly opposes arms sales to Taiwan, which Beijing sees as a renegade province, as interference in its domestic affairs. China suspended military-to-military contacts with the United States after then President George W. Bush notified Congress in October 2008 of plans to sell Taiwan a long-delayed arms package valued at up to \$6.4 billion.

Wolf, Jim, "[Obama Eyes Arms Sales to Taiwan](#)," *Reuters*, December 9, 2009.

Resources

Voices of Hibakusha

A new website allows visitors to hear *hibakusha* - the survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki - tell their stories of destruction, loss, survival and hope for a world free of nuclear weapons.

Akihiko Ito, a hibakusha from Nagasaki, recorded the stories of over 1,350 hibakusha during his lifetime. The interviews on the website are just a few of the many moving stories captured by Ito.

[Click here](#) to visit the Voices of the Survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki website.

World Peace Academy

A new program leading to a Master of Advanced Studies in Peace and Conflict Transformation will begin on March 1 at the University of Basel, Switzerland. All courses are taught in English by leading scholars and practitioners in a wide variety of disciplines from around the world.

The program is for students from any discipline interested in peace and conflict resolution, young diplomats, government officials, NGO members, teachers, journalists, lawyers, social workers, military officers, psychologists, and anyone interested in solving conflicts by peaceful means. A bachelor's degree is required.

For more information on the World Peace Academy, [click here](#).

Peace Leadership Program Booklet Now Available

Paul Chappell, the Foundation's Peace Leadership Program Director, has just published a new booklet laying out the theory behind the program and describing how it will work.

The booklet starts by defining the term "peace leadership." The booklet also discusses the power of waging peace, the three pillars of the peace leadership training and the benefits of joining the program.

[Click here](#) to read the booklet.

Foundation Activities

Foundation Speaking Events Around the US and Beyond

January and February are busy months for the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. Foundation President David Krieger will attend the meeting of the Middle Powers Initiative at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia and will be a featured speaker at the Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on February 6.

Rick Wayman, the Foundation's Director of Programs, is a featured speaker at the Viterbo University Humanities Symposium on February 2 and will also lead various private and public lectures in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in early February.

Paul Chappell, the Foundation's Peace Leadership Program Director, will travel to southeast Ohio for a series of talks with schools, universities, religious groups and social groups from January 29 - February 4.

For a complete list of Foundation public events, [click here](#).

Peace Leadership Program Update

The UC Santa Barbara Chapter of the Peace Leadership Program will have its first meeting on January 14th. This month the logo, [booklet](#), and organizational model for the program were completed, and so far 96 students from UCSB have signed up for the program. In the coming months, we plan to set up Peace Leadership Program chapters in other universities around the country.

There is a severe lack of leadership training in high schools and colleges around the country. The NAPF Peace Leadership Program will fill this void and empower a new generation to wage peace as global citizens. For more information on the Peace Leadership Program, [click here](#).

Quotes

“Once we believe in the inevitability of war, war becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. Once we are committed to war’s instrumentality in pursuit of peace, we begin the Orwellian journey to the semantic netherworld where War IS Peace, where the momentum of war overwhelms hopes for peace. And once we wrap doctrines perpetuating war in the arms of justice, we can easily legitimate the wholesale slaughter of innocents... Our ability to rethink the terms of our existence, to explore the possibility of peace without war, may well determine whether we end war, or war ends us.”

-- Rep. **Dennis Kucinich** (D-OH)

“We simply must convert to a project of peace, laying down arms of all kinds and committing all together to building a world more worthy of man.”

-- **Pope Benedict XVI**

“Nuclear disarmament and nuclear nonproliferation are mutually reinforcing and inseparable. They should be pursued in tandem.”

-- UN Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon**

Editorial Team

David Krieger
Vicki Stevenson
Rick Wayman

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